




# Year of Teens and Young Adults

July 2011 - June 2012







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The **governing theme** of the  
Archdiocese of Chicago's  
**Strategic Pastoral Plan: *Reflect Christ's Light***  
is to more deeply incorporate  
baptized Catholics  
into the life of the Church.

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Strategic Pastoral Plan





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The **overarching goal** of the  
Archdiocese of Chicago's  
**Strategic Pastoral Plan: *Reflect Christ's Light***  
is to improve the  
Archdiocesan October Count  
by **20%** in each parish  
by **2016**.

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Strategic Pastoral Plan



## Faith-Related Directions for Growth

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- + To know the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
  - + To discover ways of living as Jesus' disciples in the world through witness, service, compassion, and a quest for justice and peace
  - + To belong and participate more fully in the life of the Church in worship, in a deeper and fuller knowledge of faith, in various ministries of the Church, and in representing the Church's mission to the world
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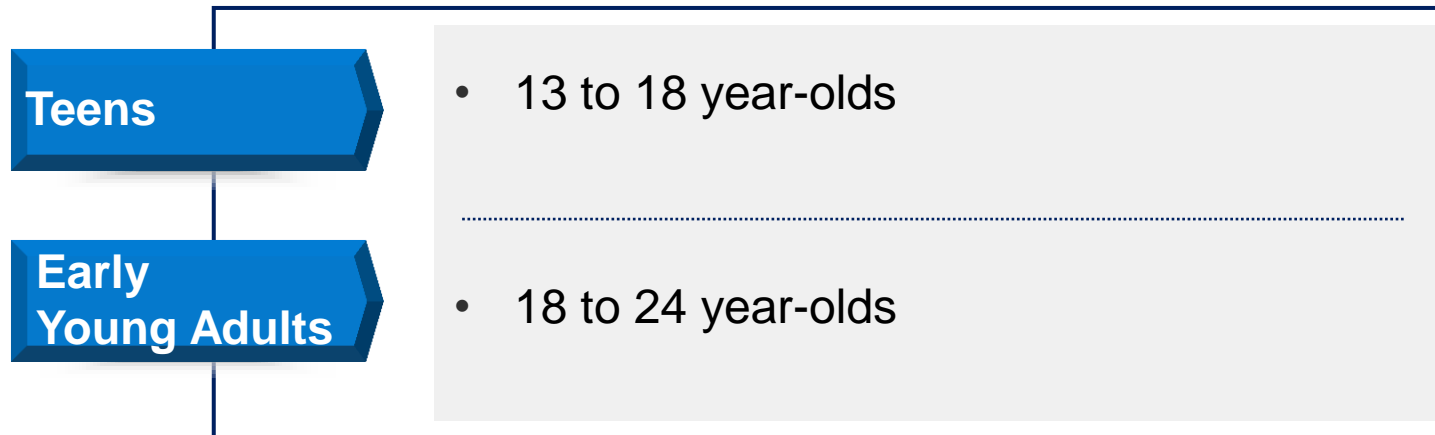
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**Beginning in July 2011,  
the first of a four-year series of  
evangelization, formation and parish vitality  
initiatives begins with**



# TEENS AND EARLY YOUNG ADULTS

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# YEAR OF TEENS AND EARLY YOUNG ADULTS

## Background

**Year *Launches* July 2011**

**Initiative** to continue beyond single year

**Attention** on teens and early young adults will be ongoing

**Focus** on teens and early young adults through local parish and school initiatives

**Archdiocesan Events and Opportunities** will be conducted to enhance existing local parish and school programs, resources and events.

# YEAR OF TEENS AND EARLY YOUNG ADULTS

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## Key Findings

### Online Survey Results\*

**Among the findings from the teenager-specific questions included in the Online Survey conducted for the Strategic Pastoral Plan were**

- Retreats and service opportunities are the most popular elements of youth activities
- There is significant demand for more Catholic youth activities, and most teens are not too busy to participate
- Teens report that they would be attracted to a more friendly, fun atmosphere in youth groups.

*\* The Strategic Pastoral Plan's Steering Committee conducted an online survey from April 3 to April 17, 2010. Over eight thousand participants completed the survey and answered questions about regularity of Mass attendance, reasons for different levels of Sunday Mass participation, sources of pride or lack of pride in the Catholic Church, and about their personal faith background.*

# YEAR OF TEENS AND EARLY YOUNG ADULTS

## Listening Sessions

### TEENS (13-18)

Want **more meaningful involvement** in parish life and ministries

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Enjoy **service opportunities**

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Successful **Youth Programs** have both **fun activities** and **serious spiritual activities**.

### EARLY YOUNG ADULTS (18-24)

*What parishes can do to make them feel like they belong.*

**Social events** with hospitality

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Allow early young adults to **develop their own activities**

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Arrange **collaborative Young Adult events** with more than one parish.

# YEAR OF TEENS AND EARLY YOUNG ADULTS

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## Focus – Important Dimensions of Growth

**SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**

**SERVICE**

**INTEGRATE TEENS AND EARLY YOUNG  
ADULTS INTO PARISH LIFE**

# YEAR OF TEENS AND EARLY YOUNG ADULTS

## Focus

### Spiritual Awakening

- Resources Organized
  - Locally by schools and parishes
  - Regionally by vicariates
  - Archdiocesan-wide level
- Considered Events
  - Retreats
  - Local pilgrimages
  - Prayer seminars
  - Prayer groups
  - “*Schools of the Word*” (style developed by Cardinal Martini of Madrid)

### Service

- Resources Organized
  - Locally by schools and parishes
  - Regionally by vicariates
  - Archdiocesan-wide level
- Expressions of Service – With Reflection Component
  - Feeding the hungry (*food pantries and soup kitchens*)
  - Visiting the sick (*sharing the ministry of care*)
  - Tutoring challenged students
  - Ecological initiatives based on the stewardship of creation
  - Helping immigrants with language skills
  - Work with parish-based and Archdiocesan-based organizations (*Vincent de Paul Societies, Catholic Charities, Amate House, etc.*)

### Integrate Teens & Early Young Adults into Parish Life

- Encouragement to Participate
  - Regular worship life of the parish
  - Sunday Mass
- Greater Visibility and Responsibility
  - Incorporation into parish and liturgical ministries
- Participation in parish
  - Commissions
  - Consultative bodies
- Resources
  - Parish based

# YEAR OF TEENS AND EARLY YOUNG ADULTS

## Kick-Off Events

### Archdiocesan Presence at World Youth Day In Madrid

- August 14 to 22
- Madrid activities include
  - Daily Mass
  - Catechesis
- All scheduled events with the Holy Father including
  - Welcoming Ceremony, Candlelight Vigil and Closing Mass



### Local WYD Experience

- Ongoing WYD Catechetical Sessions in each of the 6 Vicariates.
- No cost
- Each with different theme
- Participation by Vicariate Bishops and Deans
- WYD Chicago Traveling Cross.
- Come and JOIN US!



### World Youth Day chicago style II

- August 20 and 21 at Maryville – Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel & Shrine, Des Plaines
- Emulate Madrid events, including telecast of Holy Father's homily at the Closing Mass
- Young pilgrims from Archdiocese of Chicago, Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana



Contact: Archdiocesan Office for Catechesis and Youth Ministry, 312-534-3700  
[OFC@archchicago.org](mailto:OFC@archchicago.org) <http://www.youthministry-chicago.org>

# YEAR OF TEENS AND EARLY YOUNG ADULTS

## Schools

### Office of Catholic Schools

- The Office of Catholic Schools is located at:
  - Archbishop Quigley Center  
835 North Rush Street  
Chicago, IL 60611-2030
  - Our Mailing Address is:  
Post Office Box 1979  
Chicago, IL 60690-1979
  - To reach the Office of Catholic Schools,  
please call:  
Phone: 312-534-5200  
Fax: 312-534-5295
- For more information about Catholic High Schools  
[click here](#)



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## Principles to Guide Specific Initiatives

**Aspirational in vision**

**Bias toward local implementation, although with central support and guidance where relevant**

**Focus on incorporating lay and ecclesial ministry in a very active way, with a bias toward approaches that could go viral where possible**

**Respect diversity and ensure that approaches reflect changing demographic composition**

**Employ empirical measures to gauge impact as well as gathering narratives**